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The Art Lamp Rendered Practical

By EVELYN MARIE STUART

WHAT an accomplishment is the combining of beauty and usefulness! What a pleasing innovation is an art lamp with whose beauties are united adequate illuminating powers so that no other lighting fixture is necessary in a room.

Nothing perhaps is more generally admired than the lovely lamps with carved and gilt pedestals and shades of silk in soft colors, which invite us so irresistibly in the windows of decorator's shops and lighting fixture stores. To see is to desire in this case, mere beauty proving all powerful. However, on second thought, prudence usually cautions us against such purchases as sheer extravagance, since the lamps, though highly decorative, when equipped with the usual lighting apparatus are unfortunately merely decorative, an auxiliary light for reading, writing or any of the serious purposes of vision being necessary.

It has remained for illuminating genius to devise a lighting equipment adequate to render the beautiful art lamps really useful as well. Now that they are no longer mere ornaments but practical and effective lights, we may all indulge in the delight of possessing one or many without reproach from an economical conscience.

That a portable silk shaded lamp may be a most effective luminary is thoroughly demonstrated in the accompanying engravings, and the difference between such a lamp equipped with ordinary direct and the new indirect lighting apparatus is forcibly illustrated. In the first picture we see the effect produced by the lamp as generally used with direct illumination, the room being for the most part obscured in shadow. In the second picture we observe how by the use of the indirect lighting apparatus, involving a powerful reflector which throws the light upon the ceiling to be thence dif-



A room partially illuminated by an art lamp with the ordinary lighting equipment. —Courtesy National X-Ray Reflector Co.

fused throughout the room, the silk shaded art lamp becomes a real luminary, flooding the apartment with soft radiance of equal intensity at every point, and sufficiently bright for all the general purposes of reading, writing, etc.

The reflector is shaped like the shade, only that its greatest diameter is at the top, where it equals that of the opening in the top of the shade. The reflector tapers from the top to a small opening at the base, a little above the lower edge of the shade. The reflector being opaque, throws all the light against the ceiling, except a small portion, which strikes the reflecting surface and escapes about the lower edge of the reflector, thus affording sufficient light to softly illuminate the shade. The full radiance necessary to light the entire room does not also penetrate the shade, being caught by the opaque reflector and thrown upon the ceiling of the room. If the full strength of the light were allowed to penetrate the shade it would be so bright as to destroy the beauty of the transparent effect, though it would be rendered in-

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adequate for practical purposes.

In the larger lamps of this type a ring of small auxiliary lights around the base of the reflector are furnished and may be used in connection with or independent of the powerful indirect light. When used independently they produce the usual effect of the ordinary art lamp.

Neither ceiling or side wall fixtures are necessary in a room of average size to supplement the light of this lamp. Thus we see that with the indirect apparatus this lamp becomes an ideal luminary for the hall, living room, music room, library or drawing room or any apartment where the beauty of the decorations deserves an illumination approaching, as nearly as science can devise, the natural glow of clear daylight.

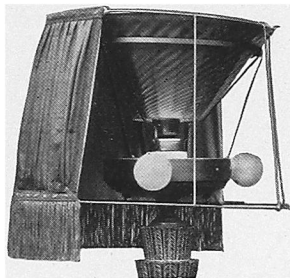
There is no glare to attract and irritate the eye and this fact permits one to fully appreciate the decorations of the room as a whole. The light sources being concealed imparts an added delight of mystery, as the observer seeing this effect for the first time cannot locate the source of the soft and all pervading radiance.

This type of lamps may be had in many sizes, in floor and table styles and in still smaller devices for use on tops of pianos, bookcases, newell posts, mantelpieces, etc. "The Curtis Portable



The same room completely and effectively lighted by an art lamp equipped with the indirect lighting apparatus involving the use of a powerful reflector. —Courtesy National X-Ray Reflector Co.

Adapter," shown below, is the name of the mechanism producing the indirect light. It is furnished not alone for any portable lamp, like the one illustrated, but may also be had in very small sizes for use on the popular candelabra, chandeliers and also in the special adaptations of the larger sizes for use in urns, vases, pedestals and the like. These latter afford some of the most charming effects imaginable with all the witchery of the magic of fairyland.



A View Showing Simple Mechanism of "Curtis Portable Adapter."